

"*STAPHYLINUS FULGIDUS*" AS THE TYPE SPECIES OF
SEVERAL STAPHYLINID GENERA (INSECTA, COLEOPTERA,
STAPHYLINIDAE). Z.N.(S.) 2221

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"*Staphylinus fulgidus*" has been used by various authors as the type species of several staphylinid genera, namely *Gyrophypnus* Leach, 1819, *Xantholinus* Dejean, 1821, *Othius* Stephens, 1829, and *Gauropterus* C.G. Thomson, 1860. Because of the absence of strict nomenclatural rules, certain usage of the respective generic names developed in the course of the years. This usage was followed until 1939 by all modern authors; even after Tottenham (1939, 1949), and especially Blackwelder (1952), introduced drastic changes based on type species designations, the majority of authors still followed the accustomed long-standing usage. The purpose of this paper is to preserve these long-standing usages, especially that of the name *Xantholinus* (type genus of the subfamily XANTHOLININAE), which, due to the changes proposed by Tottenham and by Blackwelder, disappeared from the list of valid staphylinid genera.

2. Therefore, application is hereby made for official designation of type species of the genera concerned to preserve the accustomed long-standing usage. The cases are being referred to the Commission in accordance with Article 70a of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature and with the amendments to the Code (*Bull. zool. Nom.* vol. 31, 1974: 79, Art. 23a-b).

3. Blackwelder (1952: 176) has shown that up to 1819, there were only two proposals of the name *Staphylinus fulgidus*, both by Fabricius (1787: 220 and 1792: 525). In 1792, Fabricius did not consider the junior name *fulgidus* a homonym since he removed in the same publication the senior name *fulgidus* to the genus *Paederus*. Blackwelder also has shown (and there is no reason why his conclusion should not be accepted) that the junior name of 1792 was the species placed in the genus *Quedius* by Erichson (1839: 486), and that in the case of the four xantholinid genera *Gyrophypnus*, *Xantholinus*, *Othius*, and *Gauropterus*, we are dealing exclusively with the senior *S. fulgidus* of 1787 (see Blackwelder, 1952: 176 for details). However, several subsequent misidentifications by (1) Paykull (1789: 22) [= *Othius punctulatus* (Goeze, 1777)], (2) Gravenhorst (1802: 48) [= *Xantholinus glabratus*

(Gravenhorst, 1802)], and (3) Stephens (1833: 258) [= *Othius punctulatus* (Goeze, 1777)] complicated the matter.

4. It was in 1819 that Samouelle (1819: 172) for the first time used *Staphylinus fulgidus* as a type species by designating it as the type species of his genus *Gyrophypnus* (ex Kirby MS.) (it was also the only species). In accordance with Article 16a(v) of the Code this constituted an indication (Art. 12) and made the name *Gyrophypnus* available. Unfortunately, this indication was obviously ambiguous and later caused considerable confusion. Most subsequent modern authors ignored the publication of *Gyrophypnus* in Samouelle's book, apparently because it was published without any formal description. They attributed the name to Mannerheim (1831: 7), who gave the first formal description of *Gyrophypnus* by including the genus in his key to genera, and they mostly considered it as a subgenus of *Xantholinus* (e.g. Ganglbauer, 1895: 477). In 1939 Tottenham tried to clarify the identity of "*Staphylinus fulgidus*" and arrived at the conclusion from indirect evidence (all details in Tottenham, 1939: 235), that the species Samouelle had in mind actually was *Staphylinus fulgidus* sensu Paykull, 1789 (synonym of *Staphylinus punctulatus* Goeze, 1777 and misidentification of *Staphylinus fulgidus* Fabricius, 1787) and therefore used the name *Gyrophypnus* for the genus known previously as *Othius* Stephens, 1829. In 1952 Blackwelder disregarded Tottenham's conclusion, arguing that there was no such species as *Staphylinus fulgidus* Paykull, 1789, for Paykull merely cited the Fabricius species from 1787. He concluded (all details in Blackwelder, 1952: 176) that *Staphylinus fulgidus* Fabricius, 1787, must be accepted as the species referred to by Samouelle and therefore the type species of *Gyrophypnus*, which becomes the correct name for the genera known previously as *Xantholinus* Dejean, 1821, *Othius* Stephens, 1829, and *Gauropterus* C.G. Thomson, 1860.

5. In 1833, Stephens (1833: 258) again employed *Staphylinus fulgidus* as a type species in the following discussion under the genus "*Gyrophypnus*, Kirby" [sic]: "*Staphylinus fulgidus* of Gravenhorst being given as the type of the genus *Xantholinus* Dahl, and that being merely a catalogue one – but subsequently characterised by the lamented Latreille as having the front tarsi dilated in either sex, a character at variance with the insect above mentioned, which is the type of the genus *Othius*, –" Tottenham (1939: 236) comments on Stephens's statement as follows: "On the assumption, therefore (for which there appears to be no evidence), that *fulgidus* is the type of *Xantholinus* Dahl, and because *fulgidus* will not agree with the characters which define *Xantholinus*, Stephens resurrects for *Xantholinus* the name *Gyrophypnus* Kirby of which *fulgidus* was designated type by Samouelle (1819), at the

same time making *fulgidus* the type of his new genus *Othius*." Tottenham did not accept Stephens's statement as the type-species designation for *Xantholinus*, but identified Stephens's *Staphylinus fulgidus*, along with *Staphylinus fulgidus* cited by Samouelle (1819: 172), with *Staphylinus fulgidus* sensu Paykull, 1789 (all details in Tottenham, 1939: 236) and consequently synonymised *Othius* with *Gyrophypnus* (see also para. 2). Blackwelder (1952: 176, 279 and 404) considered Stephens's statement as the type-species designation for both *Xantholinus* and *Othius*; he referred the species back to *fulgidus* Fabricius, 1787, although on page 279 (under *Othius*) he actually gave it as "*Othius fulgidus* (Paykull) (*Staphylinus*)", and consequently synonymised both *Xantholinus* and *Othius* with *Gyrophypnus*.

6. In 1838, Westwood (1838, Gen. Syn.: 16) cited "*Staph. fulgidus* Payk." as the type species of *Othius* Leach [sic]. Tottenham (1949: 371) considered this citation as the type-species designation for *Othius*, in contradiction to his earlier statement (1939: 236 – see para. 5); he actually gave the species as "*Staphylinus punctulatus* Goeze, 1777", although on the previous page (370) he listed the synonymy "*Staphylinus punctulatus* Goeze, 1777 (= *Staphylinus fulgidus* Paykull, 1789)".

7. In 1859, C.G. Thomson (1859: 27) cited "*X. fulgidus* (Fab.): Gyll. II. 356. 71" as the type species of *Xantholinus* Dahl [sic].

8. In 1860, C.G. Thomson (1860: 187–188) fixed "*Staphylinus fulgidus* Fab. Mant. Ins. I. 220.14" (i.e. 1787) as the type species of his new genus *Gauropterus*, by monotypy. Tottenham (1939: 237) recognised this as a valid type-species designation of a valid genus, basically because he identified *Staphylinus fulgidus* used by both Samouelle, 1819: 172 and Stephens (1833: 258) as identical with *Staphylinus fulgidus* sensu Paykull, 1789 (see para. 4 and 5). On the other hand, Blackwelder (1952: 168), who referred the species back to *Staphylinus fulgidus* Fabricius, 1787 (see para. 4 and 5), synonymised *Gauropterus* with *Gyrophypnus*.

9. The above paragraphs give the basic information on all critical type-species designations using the name *Staphylinus fulgidus*, and list the changes in the usage of the four generic names as they were proposed by Tottenham and by Blackwelder. In the following paragraphs, additional comments are presented, along with my proposals to the Commission, separately for each genus.

A. *Gyrophypnus* Samouelle, 1819, ex Kirby MS

10. The name was first published by Samouelle (1819: 172) who credited it to Leach ("To my kind and valuable friend Dr

Leach I am indebted for the above and following notice of new genera,”).

11. Of the two different interpretations of the identity of *Staphylinus fulgidus* as used by Samouelle (see para. 4), the one by Blackwelder certainly was correct and was applied in strict accordance with the Code, but it was not generally accepted, except in North America. In addition, even North American authors did not interpret Blackwelder's proposal uniformly. Hatch (1957: 237) and Moore & Legner (1975: 73) applied the name correctly and included only *fulgidus* in the genus; Arnett (1960: 247, 274), on the other hand, misinterpreted Blackwelder and included in *Gyrohypnus* not only *fulgidus*, but also over 20 other species, which did not belong there.

12. Under these circumstances Blackwelder's proposal did not actually establish any stability and the confusion continued. For these reasons, I believe that the long-established name *Gyrohypnus* should be conserved in its accustomed long-standing usage to promote the stability and uniformity of the nomenclature of the group. I request, therefore, that the Commission use its plenary powers to designate *Staphylinus fracticornis* O.F. Müller, 1776 (*Zool. Dan. Prodr.*: 99) (= *S. punctulatus* sensu auct. non Paykull, 1789) which suits best this purpose, as the type species of *Gyrohypnus*. This species was assigned to *Gyrohypnus* ever since Mulsant & Rey (1877: 76), whose concept of *Gyrohypnus* was followed by all subsequent authors, included it there. *Hyponygrus* (isogenotypic), proposed by Tottenham (1940: 49) for a section of *Xantholinus* under the name *Gyrohypnus* in Mulsant & Rey, 1877 (for details see Tottenham, 1940: 49), would become a junior objective synonym of *Gyrohypnus* Samouelle, 1819.

B. *Xantholinus* Dejean, 1821, ex Dahl

13. There has been confusion over the authorship of this generic name which led to differences in usage (see Tottenham, 1949: 369 and Blackwelder, 1943: 474; 1952: 404 for details).

14. The name was first published in a catalogue by Dejean (1821: 23) who included 21 species (several of them having available names) in it, the first one being "*Fulgidus. Grav.*" In accordance with Article 16a(v) of the Code, the inclusion of species with available names constituted an indication (Art. 12) and made the name *Xantholinus* available, with Dejean as the author, although Dejean himself gave Dahl as the author of the genus.

15. Stephens's statement on page 258 in his 1833 publication (see para. 5) was decidedly ambiguous and was unfortunately inter-

preted differently by Tottenham and by Blackwelder (see para. 5). What Stephens said was: (1) Dahl [Dejean] gave *fulgidus* sensu Gravenhorst, 1802 [a misidentification of *fulgidus* Fabricius, 1787] as the type species of *Xantholinus* [actually Dejean only listed it first]; (2) Latreille (1829: 435) characterised *Xantholinus* later as having anterior tarsi not, or very little, dilated, which is not true of *fulgidus* sensu Gravenhorst [it is true of *fulgidus* sensu Gravenhorst, but not of *fulgidus* sensu Paykull, 1789]; Stephens obviously misidentified *fulgidus* again and the species he really meant was actually *Staphylinus fulgidus* sensu Paykull, 1789, as already suggested by Tottenham (1939: 236). This concept is supported by the fact that (1) Stephens in 1829b (:284) listed "*St. fulgidus*. Payk.F.III.377" first under the genus "*Othius*, Leach MSS", (2) Stephens in 1833 in the same publication (:253) listed "*St. fulgidus*. Paykull. — *Ot. fulgidus*. Steph. Catal. 28 No. 3035" as first under the "Genus DXV. — *Othius* Leach MSS", and (3) Westwood (1838, Gen. Syn.: 16) cited "*Staph. fulgidus* Payk." as the type species of "*Othius* Leach" (see para. 6).

16. Despite these statements and facts, Blackwelder's proposal (see para. 5), based on strict interpretation of Article 30 of the *Règles* as modified by the Paris Congress (*Bull. zool. Nom.* vol. 4: 158), was correct, except that he should have referred these misidentified type species to the Commission. However, the name *Xantholinus* has been used ever since it was erected by almost all subsequent authors, especially by all modern authors, and *Xantholinus* became later the type genus of the subfamily XANTHOLININAE; also, Blackwelder's proposal was not generally accepted, except in North America. For these reasons, I believe that the long-established name *Xantholinus* should be conserved in its accustomed long-standing usage to promote the stability and uniformity of the nomenclature of the group. I request, therefore, that the Commission use its plenary powers to designate *Staphylinus linearis* Olivier, 1794 (*Entomol.* vol. 3: No. 42: 19, pl. 4, fig. 38), which suits best this purpose, as the type species of *Xantholinus*. The genus *Xantholinus* was subsequently subdivided into large numbers of subgenera; *Staphylinus linearis* Ol. was invariably assigned by all authors to the subgenus *Xantholinus* ever since Mulsant & Rey (1877: 45) initiated the subdivision of *Xantholinus*.

C. *Othius* Stephens, 1829, ex Leach MS

17. The name was first published in a catalogue by Stephens (1829a: 23) who included 10 species (several of them under available names) in it, the first one being "*fulgidus*, Pay." In accordance with Article 16a(v) of the Code, the inclusion of species

with available names constituted an indication (Art. 12) and made the name *Othius* available, with Stephens as the author, although Stephens himself gave Leach as the author of the genus.

18. The taxonomic identity of this genus is determined by the type-species designation made by Stephens (1833: 258) in the statement mentioned in para. 5. The comments made under *Xantholinus* in para. 15 above apply also in this case. Stephens obviously misidentified *fulgidus* and the species he really meant was actually *Staphylinus fulgidus* sensu Paykull, 1789 (= *Staphylinus punctulatus* Goeze, 1777).

19. As in the case of *Xantholinus*, Blackwelder's proposal (see para. 5) based on strict interpretation of Article 30 of the *Règles* as modified by the Paris Congress (*Bull. zool. Nom.* vol. 4: 158) was correct, except that he did not refer the misidentified type species to the Commission. However, the name *Othius* has been used by almost all subsequent authors, and especially by all modern authors; Blackwelder's proposal was not generally accepted, except in North America. For these reasons, I believe that the long-established name *Othius* should be conserved in its accustomed long-standing usage to promote the stability and uniformity of the nomenclature of the group. I request, therefore, that the Commission use its plenary powers to designate *Staphylinus punctulatus* Goeze, 1777 (*Ent. Beitr.* vol. 1: 730) which suits best this purpose, as the type species of *Othius*.

20. It may be added that *Othius* is the type genus of a family-group taxon, used most widely at tribe level OTHIINI. Some authors treat this as a subdivision of XANTHOLININAE and others, with XANTHOLININI, as a tribe of STAPHYLININAE. If *Othius* is not stabilised as here proposed, OTHIINI will have to be replaced by a new name based on *Gyrohypnus*, and this would entail an unnecessary disturbance of stability.

D. *Gauropterus* C.G. Thomson, 1860

21. In 1859, C.G. Thomson cited *fulgidus* sensu Gyllenhal (see para. 7) as the type species of *Xantholinus*. In 1860, he divided the genus *Xantholinus* into three genera: *Gauropterus*, *Nudobius* and *Xantholinus*, and by including the true *fulgidus* Fabricius, 1787 (see para. 8) as the only species in *Gauropterus*, he automatically designated it as the type species. No other species has ever been cited as the type species of *Gauropterus*.

22. There is no doubt that under the strict application of the Code the name *Gauropterus* is a synonym of *Gyrohypnus* as proposed by Blackwelder, since there is no internal evidence that Leach had anything but the true *S. fulgidus* Fabricius, 1787 in mind

(see para. 8). However, the name *Gauropterus* has been used by almost all subsequent authors, and especially by all modern authors, and Blackwelder's proposal was not generally accepted, except in North America. For these reasons, I believe that the long-established name *Gauropterus* should be conserved in its accustomed long-standing usage to promote the stability and uniformity of the nomenclature of the group, with *Staphylinus fulgidus* Fabricius, 1787 (*Mant. Ins.* vol. I: 220) as the type species, as designated by C.G. Thomson (1860: 188).

23. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is hereby requested to take the following actions:—

(1) to use its plenary powers:

- (a) to set aside all designations of type species for the nominal genus *Gyrophypnus* Samouelle, 1819, and having done so, to designate *Staphylinus fracticornis* O.F. Müller, 1776, as type species;
- (b) to set aside all designations of type species for the nominal genus *Xantholinus* Dejean, 1821, and having done so, to designate *Staphylinus linearis* Olivier, 1794, as type species;
- (c) to set aside all designations of type species for the nominal genus *Othius* Stephens, 1829, and having done so, to designate *Staphylinus punctulatus* Goeze, 1777, as type species;

(2) to place the following generic names on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:

- (a) *Gyrophypnus* Samouelle, 1819 (gender: masculine), type species, by designation under the plenary powers in (1) (a) above, *Staphylinus fracticornis* O.F. Müller, 1776;
- (b) *Xantholinus* Dejean, 1821 (gender: masculine), type species, by designation under the plenary powers in (1) (b) above, *Staphylinus linearis* Olivier, 1794;
- (c) *Othius* Stephens, 1829 (gender: masculine), type species, by designation under the plenary powers in (1) (c) above, *Staphylinus punctulatus* Goeze, 1777;
- (d) *Gauropterus* C.G. Thomson, 1860 (gender: masculine), type species, by monotypy, *Staphylinus fulgidus* Fabricius, 1787;

(3) to place the following specific names on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:

- (a) *fracticornis* O.F. Müller, 1776, as published in the binomen *Staphylinus fracticornis* (specific name of type species of *Gyrophypnus* Samouelle, 1819);

- (b) *linearis* Olivier, 1794, as published in the binomen *Staphylinus linearis* (specific name of type species of *Xantholinus* Dejean, 1821);
- (c) *punctulatus* Goeze, 1777, as published in the binomen *Staphylinus punctulatus* (specific name of type species of *Othius* Stephens, 1829);
- (d) *fulgidus* Fabricius, 1787, as published in the binomen *Staphylinus fulgidus* (specific name of type species of *Gauropterus* C.G. Thomson, 1860).

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